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Extension Service - War Food Administration

WARTIME EXTENSION WORK

SUMMARY OF EXTENSION WORK, TECHNIQUES, AND RESULTS BASED ON STATE REPORTS

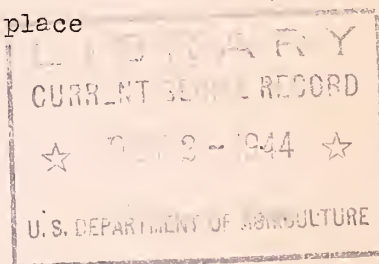
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Some items in this week's summary:

- State doubles oats and barley production.
- Soil Conservation Day observed by proclamation of Governor.
- State program launched to improve medical services and health facilities.
- Woman operating farm dairy without help wins first place in dairy show.
- Families can favorite foods for soldiers overseas.

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NORTH DAKOTA
August 15, 1944



Farm labor.- In cooperation with extension services in Southern States and with help of War Food Administration Office of Labor, approximately 7,800 farm workers have been transported to North Dakota to date for grain harvest and threshing. After threshing, part of this labor supply will remain for potato harvest. Additional workers recruited, and available if needed, will bring total to about 10,000. Labor supply includes about 3,600 Mexican nationals. Workers are placed on farms upon arrival, under effective placement program now functioning. Educational work with farmers to encourage acceptance of Mexican workers has made this source of labor generally liked and appreciated. Wage hearings at nine points in State established basic wage rates. Labor order and placement organization is operating smoothly. Labor is shifted south to north within State as harvest and threshing progress. Estimated 20,000 youths of high-school age are doing part or full-time farm work during summer. Counties are cooperating with AAA in routing harvest equipment to farms. Information on combine needs is cleared through county agents.

Information on labor- and time-saving harvest and haying equipment, prepared by Extension Service, is being given wide distribution. Circulars have been issued on power sweep rake, swivel-type sweep rake, combination hay and sweep stacker, overshot stacker, auger-type grain elevator. Circular prepared for farmers gives information on Mexican workers; another for farm housewives discusses feeding of Mexican workers.

Food preservation.- Extension forces, augmented by war food assistants, are continuing intensive educational campaign to encourage preservation of foods produced this season. Information centers have been set up at key points to assist homemakers on food problems. Pressure-cooker gage-testing demonstrations and service are carried on State-wide basis; 25 meetings held, 2,500 gages and 2,000 valves tested. Available Federal and State publications on food have been distributed in each county, with cooperation from local groups and organizations. Assistance was given in organization of State locker-plant association and in setting up educational relationships.

Production problems.- In information program to carry technical information to farms, emphasis has been placed recently on livestock sanitation. Two circulars on poultry problems were prepared. Insect control to protect crops is under way, grasshoppers being principal subject of attack in several infested counties. Studies were made and information obtained on outbreak of Hessian fly in southwestern counties, and control recommendations made available to farms. Information was disseminated to gardeners on disease problems and garden insect control. Grain variety demonstrations in 22 counties have been completed, giving farmers "in-the-field" information on varieties to grow for maximum production. Tours to crop plantings were conducted by county agents. Eight-point dairy campaign is being continued under cooperative program with creameries and industries.

Community planning.- Veterans' farm advisory groups are now organized in 38 counties. In many communities local committees have data assembled for guidance of returning servicemen. State program to improve medical service and health facilities has been initiated by Extension Service, with director as State committee chairman. Cooperation of other groups has been obtained.

PUERTO RICO
August 1, 1944

Food conservation.- Home demonstration agents and war food assistants are actively promoting food conservation. In one zone 102 demonstrations were held in 1 month. Many families are using extension canning centers to prepare and can favorite native dishes for Puerto Rican soldiers abroad.

Coffee crop.- County agents have completed coffee crop estimate. For crop year 1944-45 total production of about 304,000 hundredweights is expected. Local consumption is estimated at 200,000 hundredweights. There is no carry-over from last year's crop.

Anti-inflation.- OPA was given special cooperation in campaign to teach its rules to farm people. Meetings were held, and literature, including lists of maximum prices, was distributed. Neighborhood leaders took part.

Training.- Training meetings have been held for neighborhood leaders and 4-H Club leaders. 4-H boys were trained in health and hygiene for first time. Educational tours in connection with dairying, home gardens, coffee, and soil conservation were conducted in various districts.

TEXAS

September 1, 1944

Winter cover crops.- Recognizing need for measures to restore fertility of depleted soils in eastern Texas, Director of Extension appointed extension staff committee to study problem and make recommendations. In preliminary report, committee urged that planting of winter cover crops be temporarily given first place among proved soil-building practices. Meeting of representatives of State and Federal agencies working with agriculture was scheduled for joint planning on soil building. Vigorous educational program including discussion meetings, has been carried on in 39 east Texas and blackland counties to develop uniform program for planting winter cover crops. Work of extension agronomist was supplemented by press releases, radio shorts, and State-wide radio broadcast.

Grain production.- With harvesting of some small-grain crops completed and others in process, record yields are indicated for wheat and grain sorghums, while oats and barley were double production of 1943. Dry, hot weather at critical growing stage cut corn production below last year's. August crop report of U.S.D.A. places 1944 yield of wheat in Texas at 77,071,000 bushels, as compared with 36,366,000 in 1943 and 10-year average of 28,195,000 bushels. This year's crop made unusual average of 18.5 bushels an acre, as compared with 10-year average of 9.7. Estimate of 82,355,000 bushels of grain sorghums tops yield of 71,817,000 bushels in 1943. Corn yield now is estimated at 64,649,000 bushels against last year's 88,416,000. Estimated yield of 42,471,000 bushels of oats was double last year's production. Barley crop of 8,428,000 bushels not only far exceeded 1943 yield of 3,341,000 bushels, but was Texas' second largest barley crop. Rice crop is indicated at 18,816,000 bushels, as compared with record crop of 20,196,000 in 1943 and 10-year average of 12,004,000 bushels.

Fall gardens.- Program of soil preparation, seed inventories, and planting recommendations for fall gardens has been launched. Material for Fall Garden School of the Air has been prepared and some 40,000 cards requested for enrollment. This new undertaking in garden promotion will be conducted in series of State-wide radio broadcasts. Examination will then be given to enrollees and certificates awarded. Planting of commercial vegetables is under way in Rio Grande Valley, where cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, and large crop of tomatoes will be ready for shipment to eastern markets in late fall.

Farm labor.- At end of August about three-fourths of cotton in Coastal Bend area had been picked, and substantial part of migratory labor thus released was spreading into cotton-growing counties further north. In parts of blackland area and in north Texas, hot, dry weather forced cotton into maturity before outside labor became available to reinforce local pickers, and several counties required help. Extension labor supervisors reported labor map nowhere showed acute shortages. Advance planning by State labor staff and county agricultural agents was expected to take care of demands. Through August migratory labor field assistants of Texas Extension Service had placed 24,489 cotton pickers. Since July 10, 11,600 migratory workers had passed through two assembly stations in south Texas.

Pulpwood.- Salvage of pulpwood damaged by ice storm last January in east Texas, together with cuttings in other parts of region, has far exceeded capacity of mills in Texas and nearby States. Wet weather and shortage of trucks, parts, and

tires, hampered deliveries early in year. Summer dry period enabled such large volume of pulpwood to be moved that yarding space at mills became congested and haulers had to deliver to any landing space available. Pulp mills are running night and day. Several hundred war prisoners are used in cutting, and in loading and unloading trucks and railroad cars.

Agricultural engineering.- Growing interest in home-made automobile-rear-end phosphate spreaders has resulted in establishment of small plant to manufacture them. Publicizing of home-made bulldozers for farm tractors has brought many requests for plans. Reports have come in on satisfactory service of this equipment. Breaking of prolonged dry spell recently brought many requests for information on farm irrigation plants. Frequent requests for plans and advice on farm buildings and structures are received despite apparent scarcity of building materials.

Cooperative fruit buying.- Reports from 112 counties show that through August 31, 26,041 Texas families had pooled orders and bought 28,868 dozen pineapples at average cost of \$3.19 a dozen. About 90 percent was bought directly from importer although many orders were cleared through local merchants. Total of 599,544 pints of fruit and 103,000 pints of juice were canned--average of 27 pints per family. Transaction is estimated as having saved about 22,592,000 blue ration points. Pooled orders were handled by marketing committees of county home demonstration councils for club members and for 8,500 nonclub white families and 65 Negro families who were given privilege of sharing cooperative service. Marketing committees now are executing pooled orders for apples and peaches which are expected to exceed quantity of pineapples. Illustrating effect of fruit purchases, Uvalde County home demonstration agent reported that 11,000 pints of pineapples and peaches canned by 585 families is about all the fruit those families will have this winter.

Soil conservation.- Governor officially recognized importance of soil conservation by proclaiming August 18 "a day for soil conservation emphasis and observance." Day was observed by meetings, tours of inspection, exhibits, and talks on conservation at civic club luncheons. Supervisors of soil conservation districts in northwest Texas and Panhandle met with extension soil and water conservation specialist at Childress for discussion of post-war plans for soil and water conservation. Farmers of Hardeman and Foard Counties, and those of Motley and Cottle Counties voted to form two soil and water conservation districts, which complete coverage of 20 counties in extension district three. The 126 conservation districts now set up include about 90 percent of cultivated area of State.

Clean milk.- Importance of clean milk, which Extension Service dairy educational program has emphasized this year, was recently demonstrated by Mrs. Coy Stuart of Fisher County. Although she operates farm dairy without help, Mrs. Stuart won first place with her milk, cream, and butter at county dairy show. During first 7 months of 1944 she sold 878 pounds of butter from 8 Jersey cows.

Negro activities. First wildlife camp for Negro 4-H Club boys, held at Prairie View College, was attended by 51 boys. Specialists from Extension Service and research departments of Texas A. and M. College made talks on forestry and on habits and identification of birds and small animals. Two-day joint meeting of Negro extension agents and agricultural councils also was held at Prairie View College. Purpose was to train farm leadership in better rural life now and after war, and to give additional training to all county extension agents. Talks were made by representatives of Army, OPA, and members of Extension headquarters staff. Demonstrations were given by Negro extension workers during sessions.